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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 304941

62
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 SAM-01 /045 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/P:FJSEIDNER/VRM
APPROVED BY EUR/P:FJSEIDNER
EUR/RPM:GBHELMAN
EUR/WE-REBARBO R
EUR - REWING
---------- 068538
R 310045Z DEC 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 304941

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, XT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON FLORA LEWIS ARTICLE

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE DEVELOPED FOR USE OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON MATTERS RAISED IN FLORA LEWIS ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 30 NY TIMES MAY BE DRAWN UPON AS NEEDED BY MISSIONS. (ARTICLE ITSELF CARRIED WIRELESS FILE.) NO QUESTIONS ASKED AT NOON BRIEFING.

QUOTE:
Q: SECRETARY KISSINGER IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD EUROPEAN LEADERS THAT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN OR OTHER WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS SETBACK FOR THE US, LEADING TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES AND MAKING THE CONTINUATION OF THE ATLANTIC
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PAGE 02 STATE 304941

ALLIANCE IMPOSSIBLE. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE ACCURACY OF

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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THESE REPORTS?

A: I OBVIOUSLY CANNOT COMMENT ON SECOND AND THIRD HAND ACCOUNTS OF WHAT WAS SAID IN PRIVATE MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND EUROPEAN LEADERS, OR AT CONFIDENTIAL NATO MEETINGS.

HOWEVER, U.S. POLICY ON THE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNIST

PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF NATO COUNTRIES IS WELL KNOWN. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SAID THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF NATO, AND COULD THREATEN THE STRENGTH AND SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE.

Q: WHAT IS U.S. POLICY ON CONTACTS BY U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WITH MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST PARTIES IN NATO COUNTRIES?

A: OUR EMBASSIES IN WESTERN EUROPE, AS ELSEWHERE, REPORT ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE ROUTINE CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS AS REQUIRED FOR INFORMATION-GATHERING PURPOSES.

Q: IS THE DEPARTMENT WORRIED ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, AND DO THEY CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO NATO?

A: THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES OF OUR WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE STRONG AND HEALTHY. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THESE STRUCTURES TO DEAL WITH COMMUNIST THREATS TO THEM. END QUOTE ROBINSON

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